

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RENE OSWALD COBAR,

Defendant.

2:07-cr-00014 JCM-(RJJ)

REPORT & RECOMMENDATION
OF UNITED STATES
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

(Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Indictment
for Unreasonable Delay or Bond Pursuant
to 18 U.S.C. 3145(c) (#17))

This matter came before the undersigned Magistrate Judge for a hearing on Defendant Rene Cobar's Motion to Dismiss (#17). The Court has considered the Motion (#17), and the Government's Response (#20), in addition to the testimony and arguments presented at the hearing.

BACKGROUND

The government asserts that in September 2003 the DEA began an investigation of Cobar. Using an undercover agent, a series of negotiations occurred regarding the importation of 400 kilograms of cocaine into Las Vegas, Nevada. Eventually, Cobar was arrested in New York while attempting to launder money through another undercover agent.

TIME LINE OF EVENTS:

Initial District of Nevada Indictment

April 7, 2004 Complaint filed charging Cobar with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(3)(B): Attempt to Commit Money Laundering (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#9, at 27))

May 5, 2004 Criminal Indictment Returned; Charging Two Counts 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)(ii); 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) & (h) Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance, cocaine, and Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#1))

1	May 21, 2004	Defendant has Initial Appearance/Detained in the District of Nevada
2		Case designated as a complex case
3		Trial date set for July 13, 2004
4		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#15 & #18))
5		[Defendant was arrested in the Southern District of New York and ordered
6		transported to the District of Nevada]
7	June 3, 2004	Parties Stipulate to continue trial
8		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#20))
9		The Stipulation stated that "Counsel for defendants have spoken to the
10		defendants, and the defendants have no objection to the requested
11		continuance. The defendants are in custody. Denial of this request for
12		continuance would deny the parties herein sufficient time and the
13		opportunity within which to be able to effectively and thoroughly research
14		and prepare for trial in this case, taking into account the exercise of due
15		diligence. Additionally, denial of this request for continuance would result
16		in a miscarriage of justice. . . . The additional time requested by this
17		stipulation, is excludable in computing the time within which the trial
18		herein must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §
19		3161(h)(1)(F) and § 3161(h)(8)(A), considering the factors under 18
20		U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv)."
21	June 7, 2004	Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
22		New Trial date set for September 28, 2004
23		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #20))
24	September 22, 2004	Parties Stipulate to continue trial
25		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#26))
26		The Stipulation stated that "Defense counsel needs additional time to
27		effectively and thoroughly investigate the case. The defendant is
28		incarcerated and does not object to the continuance. The additional time
		requested herein is not sought for purposes of delay, but merely to allow
		counsel for defendant sufficient time within which to be able to effectively
		and thoroughly research, prepare and submit for filing appropriate pretrial
		motions. Additionally, denial of this request for continuance could result
		in a miscarriage of justice. The additional time requested by this
		Stipulation is excludable in computing the time within which the trial
		herein must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, Title 18 U.S.C. §
		3161(h)(1)(F) and Title 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A), considering the factors
		under 18 U.S.C. §§ 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and 3161(h)(8)(B)(iv).
	September 30, 2004	Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
		Pretrial motions to be filed by October 12, 2004
		New Trial date set for November 30, 2004
		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #26))
	October 12, 2004	Cobar filed a Motion to Join co-defendant's Motion to Dismiss Count
		Two of the Indictment for Lack of Venue (#27)
		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Motion for Joinder #28))
	October 22, 2004	Parties Stipulate to continue trial
		(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#30))

1 The stipulation stated that “This trial is set for the Monday after
 2 Thanksgiving. Counsels will be spending the holiday with their respective
 3 families. [sic] Therefore, the parties request that the trial be continued
 4 until the second week of January. Counsel for the defendants have spoken
 5 to the defendants, and the defendants have no objection to the requested
 6 continuance. The defendants are in custody. Denial of this request for
 7 continuance would deny the parties herein sufficient time and the
 8 opportunity within which to be able to effectively and thoroughly research
 and prepare for trial in this case, taking into account the exercise of due
 diligence. Additionally, denial of this request for continuance would result
 in a miscarriage of justice. . . . The additional time requested by this
 stipulation is excludable in computing the time within which the trial
 herein must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §
 3161(h)(8)(A), considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i)
 and (iv).”

9 October 24, 2004 Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
 10 New Trial date set for February 7, 2005
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #30))

11 January 24, 2005 Government files a Motion to Dismiss Count Two of Indictment based on
 12 lack of venue in the District of Nevada
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#39))

13 February 1, 2005 Parties Stipulate to continue trial
 14 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#40))

15 The Stipulation states that “The Government has dismissed Count Two of
 16 the Indictment and the parties are involved in plea negotiations which
 17 might obviate the need for trial in this case. Counsel for the defendant has
 18 spoken to the defendant, and the defendant has no objection to the
 19 requested continuance. The defendant is in custody. Denial of this request
 20 for continuance would deny the parties herein sufficient time and the
 21 opportunity within which to continue with plea negotiations or to be able
 to effectively and thoroughly research and prepare for trial in this case,
 taking into account the exercise of due diligence. Additionally, denial of
 this request for continuance would result in the miscarriage of justice. . .
 .The additional time requested by this stipulation is excludable in
 computing the time within which the trial herein must commence pursuant
 to the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A), considering the
 factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv).”

22 February 4, 2005 Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
 23 New Trial date set for April 25, 2005

24 [No Plea Agreement was filed or reached]

25 February 8, 2005 Court grants Government’s Motion to Dismiss Count Two of Indictment
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #41))

26 April 8, 2005 Parties Stipulate to continue trial
 27 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#43))

28 The Stipulation stated “That the parties are currently engaged in plea
 negotiations which might obviate the need for trial in this case. Counsel

1 for Rene Oswald Cobar has consulted the defendant, and he agrees that
2 this continuance is necessary. Defendant is currently in custody. Denial
3 of this request for continuance of the parties deadline for the filing of pre-
4 trial motions and responsive pleadings would deny the parties herein
5 sufficient time within which to be able to effectively and thoroughly
6 research, prepare and submit for filing appropriate pre-trial motions and
7 notices of defense, taking into account the exercise of due diligence.
8 Additionally, denial of this request for a continuance could result in a
9 miscarriage of justice. The additional time requested by this stipulation is
10 excludable in computing the time within which the trial herein must
11 commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A),
12 considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv).”

13 April 11, 2005 Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
14 New Motions date set for May 20, 2005
15 New trial date set for June 20, 2005
16 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #43))

17 [No Motions were filed]
18 [No Plea Agreement was reached or filed]

19 June 10, 2005 Parties Stipulate to continue trial
20 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#45))

21 The Stipulation stated “The parties are negotiating and hope to come to a
22 resolution in this case. Counsel for the defendant has spoken to the
23 defendant, and the defendant has no objection to the requested
24 continuance. The defendant is in custody. Denial of this request for
25 continuance would deny the parties herein sufficient time and the
26 opportunity within which to be able to continue with negotiations or to
27 effectively and thoroughly research and prepare for trial in this case, taking
28 into account the exercise of due diligence. Additionally, denial of this
request for continuance would result in a miscarriage of justice. . . . The
additional time requested by this stipulation is excludable in computing
the time within which the trial herein must commence pursuant to the
Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1)(F) and § 3161(h)(8)(A),
considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv).”

June 15, 2005 Order granting Stipulation to continue trial
New Trial date set for September 26, 2005
(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #45))

[No Plea Agreement was reached or filed]

August 3, 2005 Parties Stipulate to continue trial
(2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#46))

The Stipulation stated “The parties are continuing with negotiations which
might obviate the need for trial. International witnesses have to be brought
in for this trial. Counsel for the defendant has spoken to the defendant,
and the defendant has no objection to the requested continuances. The
defendant is in custody. Denial of this request for continuance would deny
the parties herein sufficient time and the opportunity within which to be
able to continue with negotiations or to effectively and thoroughly research
and prepare for trial in this case, taking into account the exercise of due

1 diligence. Additionally, denial of this request for continuance would result
 2 in a miscarriage of justice. . . . The additional time requested by this
 3 stipulation is excludable in computing the time within which the trial
 4 herein must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §
 5 3161(h)(8)(A), considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i)
 6 and (iv).”

7 August 4, 2005 Order granting stipulation to continue trial
 8 New trial date set for January 23, 2006
 9 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #46))

10 [No Plea Agreement was reached or filed]

11 December 9, 2005 Defendant files Motion to Dismiss Counsel and Appointment for New
 12 Counsel based on a lack of interest, lack of participation, and ineffective
 13 effort to carry out the proper motions requested by the defendant
 14 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#47))

15 December 20, 2005 U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Indictment Returned,
 16 Charging One Count
 17 21 U.S.C. §§ 963, 959 and 960
 18 Conspiracy to Distribute Five Kilograms or More of Cocaine Intending
 19 and Knowing that the Cocaine would be Unlawfully imported into the
 20 United States
 21 (District of Columbia case 1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1; see also 2:04-cr-00174-
 22 JCM-RJJ, Attachment to Motion to Dismiss (#49))

23 December 20, 2005 Bench Warrant Issued by United States Magistrate Judge Facciola

24 December 21, 2005 Government files a Motion to Dismiss
 25 [No actual Motion to Dismiss filed but two copies of the D.C. Indictment
 26 Attached]
 27 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#48))

28 January 11, 2006 Government files an Amended Motion to Dismiss without prejudice in
 order to pursue the matter in the U.S. District Court for the District of
 Columbia
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#49))

January 26, 2006 Order granting the government’s Motion to Dismiss
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (Order #54))

February 3, 2006 Defendant mails a letter to the Court inquiring why he is still incarcerated
 when the charges against him were dismissed and his co-defendant was
 released [letter dated February 1, 2006]
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#53))

May 17, 2006 Defendant mails a letter to the Court asserting his right to a speedy trial
 [letter dated May 5, 2006]
 (2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#55))

District of Columbia Indictment

May 16, 2006 Defendant has Arraignment/Initial Appearance and enters Plea of not
 guilty

1		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Minutes of Proceedings May 16, 2006)
2		Government files a Motion to Detain Cobar
3		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 (#9))
4		Detention hearing set for May 22, 2006
5		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Minutes of Proceedings May 16, 2006)
6		[Defendant Arrested in the District of Nevada and transported to the
7		District of Columbia]
8	May 22, 2006	Detention Hearing
9		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Minutes of Proceedings May 22, 2006)
10	May 31, 2006	Order granting Motion to Detain Defendant
11		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Order (#14))
12	July 31, 2006	Cobar moves to dismiss indictment for lack of venue
13		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Venue (#21))
14	November 9, 2006	Motion to Dismiss granted, but stayed for 20 days in order to give the
15		United States the opportunity to seek a further stay from the Court of
16		Appeals for the District of Columbia
17		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 Order (#32))
18	November 14, 2006	Government filed a Notice of Appeal in the United States Court of
19		Appeals for the District of Columbia
20		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 (#33))
21	November 17, 2006	Government filed a Motion for Extension of Time to Seek Stay from
22		Court of Appeals
23		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 (#34))
24	November 21, 2006	Order granting the government's Motion for Extension of Time (#34),
25		ordering that the Court's stay shall be extended two weeks, up to and
26		including December 13, 2006
27		(1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1 (#36))
28	December 13, 2006	Department of Justice filed a new criminal complaint against Cobar and
		Gonzales in the District of Nevada charging the defendants with
		Conspiracy to distribute cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846. The
		government abandoned the appeal and pursued the charges against the
		defendants in the District of Nevada.
		<i>2nd District of Nevada Indictment</i>
	January 24, 2007	Four Count indictment returned against Cobar.
		Count 1: 21 U.S.C. §§ 952, 960, 963
		Conspiracy to Import Five Kilograms or More of Cocaine
		Count 2: 21 U.S.C. §§ 952, 960, 963
		Conspiracy to Import Five Kilograms or More of Heroin
		Count 3: 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1)
		Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess with Intent to Distribute Five
		Kilograms or More of Cocaine
		Count 4: 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1)
		Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess with Intent to Distribute One
		Kilogram or More of Heroin
		(Indictment (#1))

1 January 24, 2007 Bench Warrant Issued by United States Magistrate Judge Leen
 2 March 12, 2007 Defendant arrested while in custody in D.C. awaiting results of appeal on
 3 Case 1:05-cr-00451-RCL-1, and transferred to the District of Nevada
 (Warrant Returned Executed (#10))
 4 March 12, 2007 Defendant has Initial Appearance/Arraignment/Detained in the District of
 Nevada
 5 The case was designated as complex
 Trial Date set for May 21, 2007
 6 (Minutes of Proceedings Initial App./Arraignment & Plea (#7))

7 DISCUSSION

8 I. Speedy Trial

9 *Speedy Trial Act*

10 The Speedy Trial Act provides that a defendant must be tried within 70 days from the
 11 filing date of the indictment, “or from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial
 12 officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs.” 18 U.S.C. §
 13 3161(c)(1). Here, the defendant appeared before a judicial officer of the United States District
 14 Court, District of Nevada, on March 12, 2007. The defendant’s trial is scheduled to commence
 15 on May 21, 2007, within the 70 days mandated by the Speedy Trial Act.

16 Certain rules are well established regarding the computation of excludable time
 17 where there is a new case and a new indictment. When some or all of the counts of
 18 an indictment are dismissed upon government motion and the government thereafter
 19 files a new indictment for the same conduct, the seventy day clock is deemed to run
 from the date it commenced with respect to the original indictment until the date of
 dismissal, subject to any statutory exclusions.

20 U.S. v. Hoslett, 998 F.2d 648, 658 (9th Cir. 1993), citing U.S. v. Arkus, 675 F.2d 245, 247 (9th
 21 Cir. 1982), *overruled on other grounds*, U.S. v. Rojas-Contreras, 474 U.S. 231 (1985). However,
 22 “if a trial judge grants a defendant’s motion to dismiss, and the government reindicts the
 23 defendant on the same offense, the Act’s seventy-day clock begins anew.” U.S. v. Karsseboom,
 24 881 F.2d 604, 606 (9th Cir. 1989), citing U.S. v. Feldman, 788 F.2d 544, 548 (9th Cir. 1986).

25 Here, the District of Columbia dismissal was initiated by the defendant, while the original
 26 indictment filed in the District of Nevada was dismissed based upon the government’s motion.
 27 The only charge that is identical to any of the charges in the initial indictment is the Conspiracy
 28 to Distribute a Controlled Substance containing cocaine. Since the government, not the

1 defendant moved to dismiss this charge, the Speedy Trial analysis must begin from the date of
2 the initial indictment. However, the time period is tolled from the dismissal of the previous
3 charge until the reindictment. See 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(6).

4 The defendant first appeared before a judicial officer on the charge alleging a Conspiracy
5 to Distribute a Controlled Substance containing cocaine on May 21, 2004. At this time the
6 Speedy Trial Act clock began to run as to that charge. Both parties stipulated to continue the
7 trial, in order to effectively and thoroughly investigate the case, research, adequately prepare and
8 submit for filing appropriate pretrial motions, and to adequately prepare for trial, until February
9 7, 2005. This time is excludable for Speedy Trial purposes. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A); see also
10 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B). The remaining continuances were issued for the purpose of plea
11 negotiations, to effectively and thoroughly research, prepare and submit for filing appropriate
12 pre-trial motions and notices of defense, and to effectively and thoroughly research and prepare
13 for trial. On May 9, 2007, the defendant testified at the hearing on the motion to dismiss that he
14 told his attorney that he did not want a deal and wanted to go to trial. Nonetheless, the
15 stipulation to continue states that the time is excludable in computing the time within which the
16 trial must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act considering factors under 18 U.S.C. §
17 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv). 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(i) and (iv) state two factors that a judge
18 shall consider in determining whether to grant a continuance which would be excludable under
19 the act. First, “[w]hether the failure to grant such a continuance in the proceeding would be
20 likely to make a continuation of such proceeding impossible, or result in a miscarriage of
21 justice.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(8)(B)(i). Second, “[w]hether the failure to grant such a continuance
22 in a case which, taken as a whole is not so unusual or so complex as to fall within clause (ii),
23 would deny the defendant reasonable time to obtain counsel, would unreasonably deny the
24 defendant or the Government continuity of counsel, or would deny counsel for the defendant or
25 the attorney for the Government the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking
26 into account the exercise of due diligence.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(8)(B)(iv). The Ninth Circuit has
27 specifically held that when computing time under the Speedy Trial Act, “negotiation of a plea
28 bargain is not one of the factors supporting exclusion.” U.S. v. Ramirez-Cortez, 213 F.3d 1149,

1 1156 (9th Cir. 2000). Further, the defendant's counsel did not file any pre-trial motions other
2 than joining in the co-defendant's motion to dismiss. Also, the government represented to this
3 Court at the hearing on the Motion to Dismiss that the purposes of the continuances were to
4 negotiate a plea agreement. Therefore, the time from February 7, 2005 until the initial indictment
5 was dismissed on February 21, 2006, is not excludable in computing the time for purposes of the
6 Speedy Trial Act.

7 Since the speedy trial clock was running from February 7, 2005 until January 26, 2006,
8 and began to run again on March 12, 2007, the 70 day time period in the Speedy Trial Act has
9 been violated as to the charge in Count Three of the current indictment alleging Conspiracy to
10 Distribute a Controlled Substance, cocaine. In this case 418 non-excludable days have elapsed
11 since the date of the initial indictment charging the defendant with Conspiracy to Distribute a
12 Controlled Substance, cocaine. Therefore, Count Three of the indictment should be dismissed
13 with prejudice.

14 The Speedy Trial Act states that "[i]n determining whether to dismiss the case with or
15 without prejudice, the court shall consider, among others, each of the following factors: the
16 seriousness of the offense; the facts and circumstances of the case which led to the dismissal; and
17 the impact of a reprosecution on the administration of this chapter and on the administration of
18 justice." 18 U.S.C. § 3162(a)(2). Although the offense charged is serious, due to the fact that the
19 defendant has been incarcerated for three years without a trial and the fact that a re-prosecution
20 would circumvent the purposes of the Speedy Trial Act dismissal should be with prejudice.
21 However, the other three counts are all new charges against the defendant. "[A]fter an
22 indictment is dismissed either with or without prejudice, a defendant may be prosecuted for
23 offenses that are separate and distinct from the offenses charged in the dismissed indictment,
24 even if those offenses all arose out of the same underlying facts." U.S. v. Brown, 183 F.3d 1306,
25 1310 (11th Cir. 1999), citing U.S. v. Derosé, 74 F.3d 1177, 1182-84 (11th Cir. 1996); U.S. v.
26 Stricklin, 591 F.2d 1112, 1120 (5th Cir. 1979). Therefore, the Speedy Trial Act clock began to
27 run for the remaining three counts on March 12, 2007. Since the trial is scheduled to commence
28 on May 21, 2007 there has not been a violation of the Act as to the remaining charges.

1 Nonetheless, the time from the original indictment is relevant when determining whether there
2 has been a Sixth Amendment violation.

3 *Sixth Amendment Speedy Trial Clause*

4 “The Sixth Amendment guarantees that, ‘in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall
5 enjoy the right to a speedy . . . trial’” Doggett v. U.S., 505 U.S. 647, 651 (1992). In
6 MacDonald, the Supreme Court rationalized that the Speedy Trial guarantee is designed to
7 minimize the possibility of lengthy incarceration prior to trial. U.S. v. MacDonald, 456 U.S. 1, 9
8 (1982). Here, the defendant had a formal indictment filed against him on May 5, 2004 and has
9 been incarcerated from May 21, 2004 until the present. Cobar has been in custody for almost
10 three years, and charges have been pending against him for over three years. Although the Ninth
11 Circuit has held that once an indictment is dismissed, since the defendant is “not subject to trial,
12 [the] Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial [has] no application . . . [.]” this case is
13 distinguishable because the defendant has been incarcerated since the initial indictment and has
14 at all times been subject to pending charges based on the same conduct. U.S. v. Wallace, 848
15 F.2d 1464, 1469 (9th Cir. 1988).

16 The breadth of the Speedy Trial Clause has been narrowed to take into consideration (1)
17 whether delay before trial was uncommonly long, (2) whether the government or the criminal
18 defendant is more to blame for that delay, (3) whether the defendant asserted his right to a speedy
19 trial, and (4) whether he suffered prejudice as a result of the delay. Doggett v. U.S., 505 U.S.
20 647, 651 (1992), citing Barker v. Wingo, 407 U.S. 514, 530 (1972). In order “to trigger a speedy
21 trial analysis, an accused must allege that the interval between accusation and trial has crossed
22 the threshold dividing ordinary from ‘presumptively prejudicial’ delay” 505 U.S. at 652,
23 citing Barker, 407 U.S. at 530-31. If this showing has been made, the court must consider “the
24 extent to which the delay stretches beyond the bare minimum needed to trigger judicial
25 examination of the claim.” 505 U.S. at 652. Once the defendant “show[s] that the period
26 between indictment and trial passes a threshold point of ‘presumptively prejudicial[,]’” generally
27 delays approaching one year, then the Court will “proceed to the other Barker factors.” U.S. v.
28 Gregory, 322 F.3d 1157, 1161 (9th Cir. 2003).

1 ***Length of the Delay***

2 In this case, the delay between the indictment and trial has been over three years, and the
 3 trial has not yet occurred. Since a period approaching one year is “presumptively prejudicial,”
 4 this Court must apply the Barker factors and do a balancing to determine if in fact Cobar’s
 5 Constitutional rights have been violated. The Ninth Circuit has found a delay of 22 months was
 6 “not excessively long” and did “not weigh heavily” in the defendant’s favor. Gregory, 322 F.3d
 7 at 1162. Further, the Ninth Circuit has stated that “the delay that can be tolerated for an ordinary
 8 street crime is considerably less than for a serious, complex conspiracy charge.” U.S. v. Lam,
 9 2001 Cal. Daily Op. Service 7299, *11 (9th Cir. 2001). This case has been designated as
 10 complex, involving numerous wire taps and conduct that occurred in a foreign jurisdiction.
 11 Under these circumstances although the delay is three years, it is not excessively long. Therefore
 12 this factor does not weigh heavily in Cobar’s favor. However, “none of the four factors
 13 identified . . . [are] either a necessary or sufficient condition to the finding of a deprivation of the
 14 right of speedy trial. Rather, they are related factors and must be considered together with such
 15 other circumstances as may be relevant.” Barker, 407 U.S. at 533.

16 ***Blame for the Delay***

17 The government argues that the majority of the delay was due to continuances requested
 18 by the defendant or agreed to by the defendant. However, the defendant testified that he asserted
 19 his right to a speedy trial on several occasions to his court appointed attorney, as well as in two
 20 letters he sent to the Court. “These assertions, however, must be viewed in light of [the
 21 defendant’s] other conduct.” U.S. v. Hawk, 474 U.S. 302, 314 (1986).

22 The defendant moved to dismiss Todd Leventhal, Esq. as his counsel on December 9,
 23 2005. See Doc. #47, Case 2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ. However, the defendant testified that he did
 24 not ask for Leventhal to file a motion to dismiss based upon his Constitutional right to a speedy
 25 trial. It is also significant that the defendant did not assert his right to a speedy trial at anytime
 26 during the proceedings in D.C. Although the defendant asserted that he did not raise the speedy
 27 trial issue because he was pursuing the lack of venue issue, the Court is unpersuaded. The
 28 defendant could have filed the motion to dismiss for a violation of his right to a speedy trial after

1 or at the same time as filing the motion to dismiss based upon lack of venue. However, the
 2 defendant did not attempt to do so, but rather argued that he should be tried in the District of
 3 Nevada. Cobar did not assert his rights, but instead waited for a period of nearly one year. The
 4 defendant only articulated his right to a speedy trial to this Court after the action was dismissed
 5 in the District of Nevada, and never asserted it in the District of Columbia. Therefore, in this
 6 case, like in Lam, “the delay . . . rest[s] squarely on the shoulders of [Cobar’s] court-appointed
 7 trial counsel, [Todd Leventhal], and not upon the government. . . . In attributing responsibility to
 8 [Cobar’s] counsel, we also find under the facts of this case that such responsibility rightfully
 9 accrues to [Cobar].” U.S. v. Lam, 2001 Cal. Daily Op. Service 7299, *13 (9th Cir. 2001). There
 10 is no evidence of egregious conduct on the part of Leventhal.

11 ***Assertion of Right to Speedy Trial***

12 Here, the defendant asserted his right to a speedy trial. The defendant testified that he
 13 told his previous counsel that he wanted a speedy trial and that he did not want to negotiate a plea
 14 with the government. Further, the defendant testified that he wrote two letters to the Court. See
 15 Case 2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#53 & #55). In the letter that was written on May 5, 2006 and
 16 received by this Court May 17, 2006, the defendant did assert his right to a speedy trial. See
 17 Case 2:04-cr-00174-JCM-RJJ (#55). Nevertheless, as previously discussed the defendant’s
 18 actions were inconsistent and contributed to the delay in this case.

19 ***Prejudice Resulting from the Delay***

20 “Actual prejudice is typically demonstrated in three ways: ‘oppressive pretrial
 21 incarceration, anxiety and concern of the accused, and the possibility that the [accused’s] defense
 22 will be impaired.’” U.S. v. Gregory, 322 F.3d 1157, 1163 (9th Cir. 2003), citing Doggett v. U.S.,
 23 505 U.S. 647, 654 (1992) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted); U.S. v. Beamon, 992
 24 F.2d 1009, 1014 (9th Cir. 1993). Cobar asserts that because of his incarceration his marriage and
 25 relationship with his daughter have ended. The Supreme Court has noted that there are “societal
 26 disadvantages of lengthy pretrial incarceration” Barker v. Wingo, 407 U.S. 514, 532 (9th
 27 Cir. 1972). Jail time affects a defendant’s job, family life, and ability to prepare his defense. 407
 28 U.S. at 532. “Imposing those consequences on anyone who has not yet been convicted is

1 serious.” 407 U.S. at 532. Cobar also contends that his ability to defend himself has been
2 irrevocably destroyed due to the loss of key witnesses needed for the defense of entrapment.
3 Although witnesses’ memories may fade, the defendant is safeguarded from suffering this
4 prejudice by the statute of limitations. U.S. v. Doe, 149 F.3d 945, 948 (9th Cir. 1998). Further,
5 “[g]eneralized assertions of the loss of memory, witnesses, or evidence are insufficient to
6 establish actual prejudice.” U.S. v. Manning, 56 F.3d 1188, 1194 (9th Cir. 1995). The inability
7 to locate key witnesses is a generalized prejudice that the defendant has not demonstrated with
8 the requisite particularity.

9 Balancing the length of the delay against the reasons for the delay in this case does not
10 warrant dismissal. Although the defendant has suffered prejudice, the fact that he did not move
11 to dismiss the case based on a violation of the right to a speedy trial until April 3, 2007 weighs in
12 favor of allowing the prosecution to go forward. Moreover, since the actions of his counsel are
13 attributable to Cobar, much of the delay in this case was to the defendant’s benefit in an effort to
14 prepare for a complex international drug case. Further, the government did not act with bad
15 faith, nor with the requisite negligence warranting dismissal. Since the government has acted
16 with good faith and due diligence in prosecuting this case in the interest of justice, the Motion to
17 Dismiss as to the three remaining counts should be denied.

18 19 **RECOMMENDATION**

20 Based on the foregoing and good cause appearing therefore,

21 IT IS THE RECOMMENDATION of the undersigned Magistrate Judge that the
22 Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss Indictment for Unreasonable Delay or Alternatively Motion for
23 Bond Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3145(c) (#17) be **GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART**.

24 IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss Indictment
25 for Unreasonable Delay or Alternatively Motion for Bond Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3145(c) (#17)
26 be **GRANTED** as to Count Three, the charge alleging Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled
27 Substance, cocaine.
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1 IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Indictment
2 for Unreasonable Delay or Alternatively Motion for Bond Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3145(c) (#17)
3 be **DENIED** as to the three remaining Counts.


4 **ORDER**

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion for Bond Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3145(c),
6 contained in the Motion to Dismiss (#17), is under the jurisdiction of the district judge and
7 therefore, is referred to the Hon. James C. Mahan, for review and resolution.

8 **NOTICE**

9 Pursuant to Local Rule IB 3-2 **any objection to this Report and Recommendation must**
10 **be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Court on or before May 29, 2007.** The Supreme
11 Court has held that the courts of appeal may determine that an appeal has been waived due to the
12 failure to file objections within the specified time. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 142 (1985). This
13 circuit has also held that (1) failure to file objections within the specified time and (2) failure to
14 properly address and brief the objectionable issues waives the right to appeal the District Court's
15 order and/or appeal factual issues from the order of the District Court. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d
16 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 1991); Britt v. Simi Valley United Sch. Dist., 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983).

17 DATED this 16th day of May, 2007.

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21 ROBERT J. JOHNSTON
22 United States Magistrate Judge
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